APPENDIX 4

HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Grover's Garden laurel removal

Aims and objectives:

1. Enhancement of Biodiversity Metric Score (Baseline Biodiversity Audit, Alyne Ecology 2024);
2. Improvement of Grover's Garden as a public open space.

Background

The Biodiversity Audit states, '*The grassland on site at Grovers Gardens has significant potential for enhancement from its current poor condition to moderate condition, providing the current management of the site is altered.*' Recommendations to improve and extend this valuable area include removal of the extensive non-native cherry laurel within 'Laurel Island'. Work has been undertaken in recent months both by volunteer teams and Haslemere Town Council contractors to reduce the onsite Cherry Laurel in order to discourage it from encroaching and reducing the area of grass lawns further on site, and to reduce shading and competition with native species. A site visit on 10th May confirmed that these reduced Cherry Laurel stumps are already leafing up and growing fast. Therefore it is proposed that the Cherry Laurel stumps are treated at outlined below to remove them for good thus allowing the acid grassland area to increase and a native woodland understorey to regenerate over time. Later on in the year, it is expected to stump grind the dead roots to prevent trip hazards.

Proposal

To saw the remaining laurel and holly in the central area of Grover Gardens to the ground and apply controlled Glyphosate to the roots to eliminate these unwanted species. Our Project and Amenities Officer is qualified to operate a chainsaw and is happy to use his personal equipment for this task.

Estimated Costs:

- Petrol for chainsaw: £7
- Roundup ProActive 360 (1L): £30
- Hire stump grinder £200

Resolution:

Work is carried out as described above to remove the Cherry Laurel stumps at Grover's Garden. To be paid from the ad hoc grounds' maintenance budget to a maximum amount of £300.